



International Association of Aquatic and Marine
Science Libraries and Information Centers

newsletter

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE BOARD EDITION

MAY 1, 2002

From the Editors ...

This Special Executive Board Edition of the *IAMSLIC Newsletter* is brought to you on this May Day, 2002, to direct your attention to several unresolved issues regarding production of the *Newsletter*. We are beginning production of the May, 2002 issue today with much uncertainty facing us.

Last October, we prepared our first special edition for your use at the conference in Brest. We attempted to identify the issues and what we believed to be the available options at the time.

Our goal was to have some direction from organization as to how the newsletter could conform to the direction in which the leadership planned to go. The issues seemed to resolve themselves to length and content. What should be in the newsletter and what should be on the web site?

We also tried to balance the modernization of the organization with the long held tradition of being a rich source of content to those not privy to electronic access. While the numbers grow fewer, there are still members scattered around the world who lack consistent Internet access. The balancing act does mean moving some material to the web page. How much do we move and how meaningful is the remaining content in the print (.pdf) format?

To assist you in recalling some remarks from the previous special issue, I have abstracted the following list of options:

OPTION 1 - Tradition

The newsletter again becomes a "traditional" newsletter containing the news of the organization and its members and kept to 12-16 pages. This could be on the web or printed and sent. It would be published quarterly.

The Electronic Library, Publication Opportunities, Training/Education, Publications, In the News, Conferences would appear as web pages on the "members only" side. This would be updated monthly at a minimum.

OPTION 2. - Delete

Delete sections of the Newsletter, such as the scientific articles/books/journals in the publications section, and the scientific conferences. If we do this which sections should be eliminated?

OPTION 3 - Abbreviate

Make the "In the News" section headlines only with links to the article.

OPTION 4 - Carry On

Continue with the newsletter as it is. If this happens, the editors should be compensated in some tangible way for their efforts, such as an honorarium or free conference registration. It currently takes a



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IAMS LIC LISTSERVER

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The iamslic@ucdavis.edu listserver is an international email conference for discussion of information-related topics in marine, freshwater, and brackishwater sciences. To sign yourself up to the conference, send the following email message:

To: listproc@ucdavis.edu

Subj: **please do not make any entries on this subj. line**

In the body of the message, type the following:

subscribe iamslic <your e-mail address> your first name lastname

To delete, suspend, or reinstate yourself to the list, please refer to the article appearing elsewhere in this newsletter (click here). Please save this information for future reference.

IAMS LIC maintains a presence on the world wide web. Please check the web page at the following URL:

<http://www.iamslic.org>

**Start your planning for
Mazatlan, Mexico
and the
28th Annual IAMS LIC Conference
October 6 - 11, 2002**

**Contributions to the May 2002 IAMS LIC
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May 3, 2002:

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IAMS LIC assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributions to IAMS LIC publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the organization.

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From the Editors.....cont'd from page 1

minimum of 60 hours to assemble and/or write the information and an equivalent amount of time to produce the copy. We have not been successful in getting additional help with this effort.

The full publication can be found on the temporary web site located at:

<http://www.western.edu/lib/iamslic.html>

The newsletter issues were addressed at the second business meeting held on Wednesday, October 17, 2001 in Brest, France. The discussion, as summarized in the minutes published in the November, 2001 *Newsletter* follows:

15. **Newsletter:** The President announces that the Newsletter and all related issues are open for discussion. Joe Wible expresses concern about the switch to an electronic publication and feels that the Newsletter has become too lengthy. President states that there are three options available for the future and requests delegates to comment on:
 1. Return to the shorter version, but publish the list of web links on the IAMSLIC web site
 2. Reduce the newsletter content
 3. Continue with current style (which requires a lot of work from the editors)

The following is noted:

1. Problems experienced with Internet access make the Newsletter almost inaccessible to members in developing countries. The alternative is to send a printed version to those members without reliable Internet access.

2. The normal edition has already being shortened by publishing the list of web links on the IAMSLIC web site.
3. The list of upcoming meetings is very useful, but could also be published on the web.
4. Great appreciation is expressed for the tremendous job that the editors are doing, and members are requested to give them special treatment!
5. Where possible, items currently published in the Newsletter should be published to the web, which will also shorten the Newsletter.
6. A sixty page newsletter is simply too long to read in electronic format. Since the production of a regular newsletter places a heavy load on the current free time editors, should IAMSLIC not out-source the production of the newsletter?
7. The Newsletter should not be published in the "Members Only" section of the web site, but should be made available in the public domain.
8. When producing the Newsletter, the focus should be on the NEWS and not on other add-ons.
9. The ideal length of the Newsletter should be between twelve and sixteen pages.
10. The separation between news and additional information, may result in reducing the load on the editors.

Motion by Michael Gomez: "Reduce the size of the Newsletter to previous size. Publish the Newsletter in electronic format with printed copies to everyone requiring hard copies. Publish web links on IAMSLIC web site to "Members Only" section, with a statement in the Newsletter about new information being published on the web."

In discussing the motion, Ruth Gustafson indicates that the Publications Committee wanted the URL's to fall in the public domain. Janet Webster recommends that previous editions of the Newsletter should also be released to public domain after some time.



Amended motion by Janet Webster: "Reduce the size of the Newsletter to previous size. Publish the Newsletter on the IAMSLIC web site in the section for "Members Only" with printed copies to everyone requiring hard copies. Refer the issue to the Publications Committee, the Web Subject Directory Task force and Executive to determine the placement of different sections of the Newsletter."

The motion is passed unanimously.

Action: Publications Committee, Web Subject Directory Committee and Executive Board.

The full text of the minutes for that meeting begin on page 43 of the November *Newsletter*. The journal can be found at:

<http://www.western.edu/lib/iamslic.html>
along with the other issues of the *Newsletters* for 2001, which we have been unable to post to the official IAMSLIC web site.

It was our understanding that these issues would be addressed and resolved by January, 2002. To date this has not happened. We believe that it is imperative to address these issues along with the web site development as soon as possible.

Before we proceed any further with the May issue, please advise us as to the future of the *Newsletter* with regard to content and distribution of information to those without access to the web page. Please do this in the context of the following items:

1. Option 1 - tradition. This complies with the approved motion. The electronic portions would be placed on the web. Who would be responsible for gathering and posting the electronic portions?

2. Option 2 - Delete. Delete the new sections mentioned here that were added as a result of the member survey several years ago and in response to directions for the Executive Board. This does not appear to be in the tradition of IAMSLIC to respond to the needs of all its members.

3. Abbreviate - "In the News" headlines only with links to the article. (If it is print only, it would be discarded).

4. Carry on - Produce as we have with the previous five issue. Apparently this is not wanted by some members. However we don't know the wishes of the overall membership, only those in attendance at the business meeting in Brest.

After five years of working with the *Newsletter* and numerous e-mails trying to resolve these issues, we believe that we may be inhibiting your decision making process. Therefore, we will remove ourselves from this issue and resign as editors, either immediately or after producing the May 2002 issue. Please let us know your wishes as soon as possible.

Both of us have enjoyed the experience and the opportunities that it provided in working with so many of you. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Beth Avery

Roger Kelly

